

I call on you to hold an official public hearing in my state.

Before the disastrous 2003 decision to weaken media ownership rules (which a federal court has now overturned), you held only one official public hearing. Further, FCC officials met behind closed doors 71 times with major broadcasters – but only five times with public interest groups. And to justify your actions, you used deceptive, industry-sponsored research data.

The will of Big Media had been heeded at the expense of American citizens and democracy itself. This has to end. Before you rewrite the ownership rules, I demand an official public FCC hearing in my state, impartial and verifiable research, and transparent debates.

It is time to put the needs of democracy – a diverse, skeptical, independent and competitive media system – ahead of profit-hungry media giants.

Media consolidation is anathema to a democracy and a gross violation of the public trust. Any FCC Commissioner who cannot implement this principle is in violation of the public trust and should resign. Failure to hold a timely public hearing on this matter in California would constitute a constitutionally impermissible restriction on the due process rights of the public to comment on this important matter. We demand notice and an opportunity to be heard. Thank you for considering these comments and including them in the official administrative record.